

REMARKS

Applicants note the Examiner's "Claim Interpretations" set forth in the Office Action (page 2, ¶¶2-3). Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that the Federal Circuit has stated, "claim terms must be given their ordinary and accustomed meaning unless the patent expresses an intention to impart novel meaning to the claim terms." Sunrace Roots Enter. Co., LTD. v. SRAM Corp., No. 02-1524, 2003 U.S. App. LEXIS 14338, at *11 (Fed. Cir. July 17, 2003). The asserted definitions are not known to be the accustomed and ordinary meanings. However, even if the claim interpretations put forth by the Examiner are accepted, the rejections of the claims fail to show anticipation or obviousness and the application is allowable. The remainder of this response uses the Examiner's interpretations.

Claims 1, 7, 18, and 19 are amended, and new claims 20-38 are added to claim the invention in alternative language. Claims 1, 18, and 19 now include the limitations of claim 8, which was deemed allowable. Claim 8 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-7 and 9-38 remain for consideration, and all claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bhasker, J., (hereinafter "Bhasker") Verilog© HDL Synthesis: A Practical Primer, Chapter 5, "Verification", ©1998. The rejection is respectfully traversed, because the Office Action does not show that Bhasker teaches all the limitations of the claims. However, the claims are amended to expedite prosecution, and the rejection is moot in view of the amendments.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on October 21, 2004.

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